

Docket 96-98

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Before The
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington DC 20554

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Common Carrier Bureau
Network Service Division
Office of the Chief

In Re:)
New York Department Of Public Service)
Petition For Additional Authority to)
Implement Number Conservation Measures)

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Comments of Focal Communications Corporation of New York

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Focal Communications Corporation of New York hereby submits its comments in response to the Petition by the New York State Department of Public Service (NYDPS) seeking additional authority to implement various area code relief and conservation options.

Specifically, the NYDPS seeks delegated authority to: (1) implement mandatory thousand block pooling trials; (2) explore options for implementing individual telephone number (ITN) pooling and establishing ITN pooling trials where technologically feasible; and (3) implement interim unassigned number porting. The NYDPS also seeks delegated authority to adopt and enforce number assignment standards including: (1) "fill rates", (2) NXX code reclamation procedures; (3) utilization surveys; (4) NXX code rationing, (5) enforcement, and (6) auditing.

As set forth below, while Focal does not support all of the New York proposals, Focal supports limited additional authority for state commissions to develop number conservation and relief plans suited to local circumstances. Focal does not support additional authority for states to mandate and monitor number utilization.

Thousand Block Number Pooling (Focal Supports)

Focal urges the FCC to support the NYDPS in expanding its number pooling effort in NPA 516. In Focal's experience, number pooling has enabled carriers to get numbering resources that are necessary to serve customers needs in a shorter period of time (two weeks vs. 66 days for a new NXX). Pooling also eliminates the need to get a whole NXX if a smaller amount of numbers will suffice for the foreseeable future. Number pooling has, in the case of NPA 847 in Illinois, in combination with other conservation measures forestalled the exhaust of 847 and the implementation of the 224-overlay code. Number pooling has also made numbering resources possible in NPA 212 where NXX codes have not been available for over a year.

Individual Telephone Number (ITN) Pooling (Focal does not support)

In Focal's view, ITN pooling is not a good idea for a variety of reasons. For example, the burden to administer the pool database would be enormous. Moreover, even if carriers were permitted to keep some unassigned telephone numbers for growth, the cost of porting the remaining numbers would be a huge burden on carriers. In addition, such a large volume of ported numbers would likely strain the capabilities of the SS7 network, specifically at the Signal Control Points (SCPs). In addition, ITN pooling would not be helpful to corporate customers that need numbering resources in 1,000 number ranges or in sequential order as carriers would not be able to manage numbering resources in order to have such blocks available.

Unassigned Number Porting (UNP) (Focal supports)

Unassigned Number Porting (UNP) is the ability of one carrier to request unassigned numbers from another carrier's inventory in order to meet a customer's request.

The greatest benefit would be that the exhaust of an NPA would be forestalled by greater utilization of the existing numbering resources. For example, a carrier may need three hundred numbers for a customer in a certain rate center where such carrier does not have an NXX code. If a carrier could port the three hundred numbers from another carrier with available numbers, rather than requesting an entire NXX code with 10,000 numbers, the NXX would be saved for use in another part of the NPA or for a new entrant.

A further benefit is that carriers would be able to acquire numbering resources in a much quicker time frame than the current standard for a new central office code of 66 days. This would help carriers who need numbers for a customer in a rate center where they do not have an open NXX.

An additional benefit for customers is that they could more likely receive numbers meeting their dialing plan needs. For example, if a business customer wishes to expand its DID block and its current carrier does not have available phone numbers (line numbers) that would fit with the customer's dialing plan, the carrier could request a block of unused numbers from another carrier. Similarly, a residential customer requesting a second line could receive a number more closely matching such customer's existing telephone number. Such a benefit might be especially attractive if an overlay is

implemented. Using UNP, a customer could increase the chances of getting a second line at least with the same NPA as the first line.

General Authority to adopt and enforce number assignment standards. (Focal does not support)

Focal does not support the NYDPS request for additional authority with respect to number utilization: (1) "fill rates", (2) NXX code reclamation procedures; (3) utilization surveys; (4) NXX code rationing, (5) enforcement, and (6) auditing. These issues are being addressed at the national level (i.e., NANC) and should be left in that forum. Otherwise, carriers may well face 50 different sets of numbering rules and fifty different forums in which to arbitrate conflicts.

Respectfully submitted,

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